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The author has had training in historical research and his work exhibits evidences of industrious and careful investigation. He has not only drawn from the earlier accounts of Montfur, Perez, Nicaise, and Roche, and various reminiscences, but he apparently has made close examination of American newspapers of the period covered, and has had access to original manuscript archives in the State and Navy departments at Washington. He has also used the Wheeler scrap-books (now in the Library of Congress) prepared by the American minister in Nicaragua, and also a scrap-book compiled by John P. Heiss, at one time a proprietor of the New Orleans *Delta* and later sent by Marcy as a special agent to Nicaragua. Foot-note references are given but references to manuscript "Despatches" and "Notes" are not always complete.

Dr. Scroggs has not exhausted the diplomatic correspondence on the relation of filibustering to international relations. A large amount of unused material bearing upon his subject may be found at the Department of State in other "Despatches" from various Latin-American countries.

The work has some defects. The map opposite page 110 is not adequate (*e. g.*, it should show the "Punta Arenas" mentioned on pages 74 and 325). There are several minor errors of careless diction, loose construction, and infelicitous style. Examples of incoherence of narrative due to "improper reference" are seen on page 19 (line 25) and page 365 (line 6). The most painful example of ungrammatical construction appears at the top of page 397. The book has an index of names and places.

J. M. CALLAHAN.

Abraham Lincoln. By Lord CHARNWOOD. [Makers of the Nineteenth Century, edited by Basil Williams.] (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1916. Pp. viii, 479.)

LORD CHARNWOOD has given us the most complete interpretation of Lincoln as yet produced, and he has presented it in such artistic form that it may well become classic.

Lord Charnwood is a man of many affairs and much learning. He belongs to that Benson family of which the best known to Americans is the producer of Shakespeare's plays, and is of that group in which the late Henry James found such delight. He is neither a professional historian nor a professional writer, and his motive for the present work is quite obviously love of Lincoln. His preparation for it is but inadequately suggested by the extensive and discriminating "Bibliographical Note" (pp. 455-458). It really consists in a complete saturation with material relating to the subject in the largest possible way, and including, as the scholar must continually observe, the results of the most recent investigations and even unpublished conclusions. The subject has been with him since boyhood, and has taken shape in that atmos-

phere rich with public affairs, literary appreciation, and scholarship, which certain circles in England afford. The contribution is not one of new fact but of deep thought.

This is a testing background against which to throw a rough frontiersman who, unlike so many of his fellows, never acquired polish. It is an equal tribute to subject and author that the latter can write: "Those who read Lincoln's important letters and speeches see in him at once a great gentleman" (p. 404). Nor is this ability to look through surface deficiencies to essentials less revealed by the author's point of view with regard to American history as a whole:

there has been a tendency both in England and in America to look at this history upside down. The epoch of the Revolution and the Constitution has been regarded as a heroic age . . . to be followed by almost continuous disappointment, disillusionment and decline. A more pleasing and more bracing view is nearer to the historic truth. The faults of a later time were largely survivals, and the later history is largely that of growth though in the face of terrific obstacles and many influences that favored decay.

Lincoln is too well known to permit new interpretations of his character which are both true and sensational. Lord Charnwood does not reverse judgments, but his originality consists in his fusion of recognized characteristics into an intelligible whole. Nowhere is this more satisfactory, and nowhere was it more needed, than in the treatment of the relations of Lincoln to his family and his environment. Though not rejecting the supposititious strain of gentle blood through his mother's possible illegitimate birth, to which Lincoln himself attributed much of his difference, the author shows that Lincoln was in many respects the true son of his father. Truly amazing is the picture of the United States during his boyhood (pp. 16-62), out of which Lincoln rises not as a miracle, but as a towering native growth. To describe the awkward age of the frontier with the subtilty of a sophisticated mind, without disdain and without championship, is something which no American writer has as yet accomplished. It is against this background that he discusses with full candor those crudities which so many of Lincoln's biographers shirk. Lord Charnwood does not judge as a pragmatist, he tests these characteristics as to essentials, after eliminating the attendant dross of circumstance, with the strongest acid which a superior civilization can bring. He finds flaws, but not serious ones, and he finds some of those most shunned by eulogists, to have been closely related to wholesome fundamental traits.

Lincoln's training, both conscious and unconscious, is vividly portrayed, but he is brought to the presidency rather less complete than most biographers make him. Nevertheless Lord Charnwood makes here the point with which he closes the book, which, little recognized before the publication of portions of John Hay's diary, gives Lincoln his chief claim to universal interest, that he elected to fight the war not so much

to preserve the United States government, as because he believed that the preservation of that government was necessary to the triumph of democracy. Lord Charnwood's experience in public affairs makes him a keen judge of the scope of Lincoln's responsibility for the conduct of the administration. His recognition of the force of public opinion, of the necessity of trusting subordinates, of neglecting the important for the more important, bring into all the clearer relief the extent of Lincoln's guidance, and his inflexibility on essentials. His inclusion of war strategy among the subjects upon which Lincoln kept a firm and wise grasp, will surprise most readers, but it accords with the most recent studies in military history. The aphorism "So humorous a man was also unlikely to be too conceited to say his prayers", applies to Lord Charnwood as well as to Lincoln, in that he gives serious attention to the religious feeling that developed so strongly in Lincoln as the war progressed. So naturally is this development, as that of Lincoln's character as a whole, evolved with the progress of the war, that the reader is almost as surprised at the final judgment of the author as were the American people at their own in April, 1865.

It should be obvious that this book is not milk for babes. It is intended for the intelligent, whether they are informed or not, but not for the informed unless they are intelligent. It does not give a complete narrative, but discusses almost all Lincoln's serious problems and the serious problems about him. The style is necessarily subtle, but is also clear, and is rich in epigrams. The latter flow naturally and are not strained, unless it be occasionally in the case of some of the associated characters. On these men Lord Charnwood is always interesting, but his knowledge of them tends to diminish as the ratio of their distance from Lincoln increases, and he is less well read with regard to Southerners. He is generally appreciative and seldom unjust, but he does not hesitate to judge harshly, and he perceives too great a distance between Lincoln and any of the others really to please their families.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.

Third Party Movements since the Civil War, with Special Reference to Iowa: a Study in Social Politics. By FRED E. HAYNES. (Iowa City, Iowa: The State Historical Society. 1916. Pp. xii, 564.)

THE importance of the rôle played by third parties in American political history since the Civil War is becoming more and more evident as one after another of the propositions advocated by these independent organizations are incorporated into the platforms of the older parties. Students of history and politics, therefore, will welcome this comprehensive work treating of the origin, development, and significance of these movements. The Prohibition and Socialist parties having been excluded from consideration for the sake of unity, the material falls